

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** An adhesive composition which comprises a crosslinked product of (A) a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters and (B) a crosslinking agent, and (C) at least one phenol compound selected from the group consisting of 2,6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol, butylhydroxyanisole, stearyl  $\beta$ -(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate, 4,4'-butylidenebis(3-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol), 3,6-dioxaoctamethylenebis[3-(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)propionate], and 1,1,3-tris(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenyl)butane, wherein the crosslinking agent (B) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the copolymer (A).

**Claim 2 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 1, which comprises 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of the phenol compound (C) per 100 parts by weight of copolymer (A).

**Claim 3 (canceled).**

**Claim 4 (canceled).**

**Claim 5 (withdrawn):** An adhesive sheet comprising a film of acetyl cellulose and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition according to Claim 1, said layer being disposed on the film of acetyl cellulose.

**Claim 6 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 1 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

**Claim 7 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component according to Claim 6, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.

**Claim 8 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition which comprises

a crosslinked product of components which comprise (D) a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 500,000 to 2,500,000 and (E) a crosslinking agent, and

(F) a radical scavenger,

wherein the crosslinking agent (E) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the

copolymer(D), and the radical scavenger (F) is in an amount of 0.01 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the copolymer (D).

**Claim 9 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition which comprises

a crosslinked product of (D') a mixture of a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 500,000 to 2,500,000 and an oligomer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000 in amounts such that a ratio of the amounts by weight of the copolymer to the oligomer is 100:5 to 100:100 and (E) a crosslinking agent, and

(F) a radical scavenger,

wherein the crosslinking agent (E) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the mixture (D') and the radical scavenger (F) is in an amount of 0.01 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the mixture (D').

**Claim 10 (original):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 8, which further comprises (G) a secondary antioxidant.

**Claim 11 (original):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 9, which further comprises (G) a secondary antioxidant.

**Claim 12 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 10, which comprises 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of the secondary antioxidant (G) per 1 part by weight of the radical scavenger (F).

**Claim 13 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 11, which comprises 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of the secondary antioxidant (G) per 1 part by weight of the radical scavenger (F).

**Claim 14 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 8, wherein the radical scavenger is at least one agent selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, an amine photostabilizer and a polymerization inhibitor.

**Claim 15 (previously presented):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 9, wherein the radical scavenger is at least one agent selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, an amine photostabilizer and a polymerization inhibitor.

**Claim 16 (previously presented):** In an optical component, the improvement comprising the optical component containing the adhesive composition according to Claim 8.

**Claim 17 (previously presented):** In an optical component, the improvement comprising the optical component containing the adhesive composition according to Claim 9.

**Claim 18 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 8 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

**Claim 19 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 9 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

**Claim 20 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component according to Claim 18, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.

**Claim 21 (withdrawn):** An adhesive optical component according to Claim 19, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.

**Claim 22 (new):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 1, wherein the copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters (A) is a copolymer of (a) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl(meth)acrylate, ethyl(meth)acrylate, propyl(meth)acrylate, butyl(meth)acrylate, pentyl(meth)acrylate, hexyl(meth)acrylate and cyclohexyl(meth)acrylate and (b) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate, 3-hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-methylacrylamide, N-methylmethacrylamide, N-methylolacrylamide, N-methylolmethacrylamide, monomethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylate, monoethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylate, monomethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylate, monethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid, itaconic acid and citraconic acid.

**23 (new):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 22, wherein the crosslinking agent (B) is a polyisocyanate compound.

**24 (new):** An adhesive composition according to Claim 23, wherein the phenol compound (C) is selected from the group consisting of 2,6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol and 4,4'-butylidenebis(3-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol).